

# **SAMPLE SYLLABUS**

**THIS SYLLABUS IS TO BE USED AS A GUIDE. DO NOT COPY OR PARAPHRASE THE CONTENT OF THIS SYLLABUS. DOING SO CONSTITUTES PLAGIARISM.**

**THIS SYLLABUS INCLUDES ITEMS THAT ARE NOT REQUIRED FOR YOUR ASSIGNMENT. THESE ITEMS ARE SO NOTED.**

## **Memorial Middle School 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Language Arts Syllabus 2009-2010**

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### **Goals and Objective**

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Language Arts is an opportunity for students to discover and understand the world through literature and express themselves through writing. While learning about themselves and others, students will prepare for both the FCAT Writes exam in February and the FCAT Reading test in March. By the time they leave in June, students will be well prepared for success in high school. As an educator, I aim to use encouragement and fun to involve students in their own learning processes and to inspire students to become life-long learners.

### **Classroom Rules**

- 1) Be seated with all materials and supplies when class begins.
- 2) Complete all assignments on time.
- 3) Listen while others are speaking.
- 4) Respect each other's opinions, space, and belongings.

### **NOT REQUIRED:**

#### **Classroom Procedures**

- Bellwork
- Review homework/work from previous class
- Introduction of the current day's lesson
  - Review objective and benchmark
- Assignment/Activity
- Review and Remarks
  - Student questions and clarification
  - Student understanding
- Expectations for tomorrow
- Planner Review
  - Write homework and needed materials in planner

## NOT REQUIRED:

### Curriculum

<b>Textbooks</b>	- McDougal Littell "Literature"
<b>Novels</b>	- "The Giver" by, Lois Lowry - "We Beat the Streets" by, Sampson Davis, George Jenkins, Sharon Draper and Rameck Hunt - "Esperanza Rising" by, Pam Munoz Ryan - "Tears of a Tiger" by, Sharon Draper
<b>Writing</b>	- Interactive Notebook - Journal - Write Scores practice
<b>Web sites</b>	- Teacher Web site ( <a href="http://teacher.ocps.net/erin.miller3/">http://teacher.ocps.net/erin.miller3/</a> ) - Think ( <a href="http://www.think.com">www.think.com</a> ) - FCAT Explorer ( <a href="http://www.fcatexplorer.com">www.fcatexplorer.com</a> ) - SpringBoard ( <a href="https://springboard.collegeboard.com">https://springboard.collegeboard.com</a> ) - Scholastic ( <a href="http://www.scholastic.com">www.scholastic.com</a> ) - Literature Textbook ( <a href="http://www.classzone.com/cz/books/ml_lit_gr08_fl/book_home.htm?state=FL">http://www.classzone.com/cz/books/ml_lit_gr08_fl/book_home.htm?state=FL</a> )
<b>Year Theme</b>	- Personal Challenges and Our Responses to Them

### Supplies

- 1) Two- to three- inch, three-ring binder
- 2) Composition notebook
- 3) Number two pencils
- 4) College-rule paper
- 5) Blue or black ink pens
- 6) Dividers
- 7) Highlighters (three different colors)
- 8) Planners (first planner provided by the school)

### Discipline Plan

If a student breaks a rule stated above, the following consequences will occur:

- 1) Verbal reminder
- 2) Parent contact and/or detention or behavioral reflection sheet
- 3) Referral to grade level administrator

The discipline plan is a suggested order of the actions that will be taken by the instructor if a student is not in accordance with classroom and/or school rules. However, certain offenses (such as fighting and gross insubordination) will immediately result in a referral.

### Grade Breakdown and Policy

Grades are broken down into the following categories:

Category	Percentage of Grade	Details <b>The details are NOT required.</b>
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	30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reading</li> <li>- Writing</li> <li>- Vocabulary</li> <li>- Discussions and Presentations</li> <li>- Notebook</li> </ul>
Homework	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Weekly writing reflections (usually on think.com)</li> <li>- Other daily homework assignments</li> </ul>
Employability Skills (Conduct)	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- On time to class</li> <li>- Prepared (has materials and work)</li> <li>- On task (positive and productive)</li> </ul>
Papers/Projects	20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Paper topics will include responses to literature, essays, and creative writing.</li> <li>- Projects are creative extensions from literature and writing assignments that will include performances, art, and speeches.</li> </ul>
Quizzes	15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reading mini-assessment each week</li> <li>- Vocabulary</li> <li>- Content of readings</li> </ul>
Tests	20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Tests will occur at the completion of a novel to assess reading comprehension, writing fluency, as well as grammar progress.</li> <li>- Write Scores practice</li> </ul>

**NOT REQUIRED – The note, late assignment, and extra credit information below is not required.**

\*\*\**Note*: The teacher reserves the right to add and remove assignments from any of the grading categories listed above.

\*\*\**Late Assignment*: Students, who are in school when work is assigned, will be given the opportunity to turn in the assignment up to one day late. Furthermore, late work will result in one grade percentage deduction (example: the highest grade a student can get on a late assignment is an 89.9%=B+).

Late work due to absence is addressed in the section below noted under “Attendance.”

\*\*\**Extra Credit* is optional and based upon the teacher’s discretion; therefore it is not mandatory. Students ALWAYS have the option to read a novel outside of class (especially Sunshine State Standards books) and complete a project on the novel. Please see class Web site for details on book and project choices.

**NOT REQUIRED:**

### **Grading Scale**

A+ to A- = 100% – 90%

B+ to B- = 89.9% – 80%

C+ to C- = 79.9% – 70%

D+ to D- = 69.9% - 60%

F = 59.9% and below

## **NOT REQUIRED:**

### **Tutoring**

Tutoring is available for students with the teacher on a “student/parent request” basis. Tutoring will take place before school from 8:40am to 9:10am in my classroom, unless otherwise noted.

### **Attendance/Make-up Work**

- During an excused absence (ex. illness, travel), that student is allowed the number of days absent in order to make-up work.
- During an unexcused absence (ex. suspension, truancy), assignments are due the day the student returns to class. Any late work will result in a one grade percentage deduction (as noted in the late work section above).

**\*\*In both cases, it is the student’s responsibility to obtain notes and handouts from the days missed. Students can get them from another student or can go to the class Web site.**

## Signature Page

### Parent(s) and Guardian(s):

Please discuss this syllabus with your child, then sign and date below. Your child is to return this signature page to me. In addition, our class will require regular access to a computer for homework assignments, research, etc. Please write me a note below if your child does not have easy and regular access to a computer with Internet access. If this is the case, we can work together to make sure your child has access to a computer in my classroom or the media center. Please feel free to write any other notes below regarding information you would like me know about your child. Thanks, and I look forward to a great year!

\_\_\_\_\_  
Child's Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Grade

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent(s)/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Note to teacher from parent:

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